

divide the two regions; but Carboniferous rocks form the larger part of either shore, and the Straits may be considered simply as a long shallow valley, the bottom of which happens to lie beneath the level of the sea. The question thus arises—At what epoch and by what means was Anglesea separated from the mainland?

Looking north-west across the country from any of the minor heights a mile or two inland between Bangor and Caernarvon, no one would even suspect the existence of the Straits. The whole of Anglesea is low; and only one steep escarpment, a minor one, occurs in the island—that of the Old Red Sandstone overlooking Traeth Dulas, which rises abruptly above the tidal flat of the Traeth to the height of about 250 feet.

The entire island may, indeed, be looked on as a gently undulating plain, the higher parts of which attain an average elevation of from 200 to 300 feet above the level of the sea; while most of its principal brooks and small rivers run north-east and south-west, in depressions with gently sloping sides; and only one inland valley, with the same trend, is of any marked importance, namely that of Malldraeth Marsh, in which a small coalfield lies. There are, however, a few exceptions to the average levels mentioned above—the summit of Holyhead mountain being 709 feet, and Garn, near Llanfairynghornwy, 558 feet above the sea, while the greatest elevation crossed by the sections of the Geological Survey (sheet No. 40) is only about 400 feet high.

On the opposite side of the Straits, the same kind of low, undulating scenery prevails for several miles inland, with the same kind of minor north-east valleys, one marked instance of which occurs in a long, shallow, and